

REMARKS

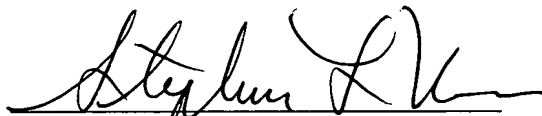
In the Office Action date February 24, 2004 the Examiner requires restriction of the instant claims to one of invention I (Claims 1 – 9 and 19 – 23) and invention II (Claims 10 – 18), having concluded that inventions I and II are distinct under the guidelines of MPEP § 806.05 (c). In particular, the Examiner finds that the combination of invention II does not require the first and second mating parts of the sub combination of invention I.

Applicant respectfully traverses this restriction requirement. The combination set forth in original claim 10 includes and requires mating an upper body (a first mating part) to a cartridge valve assembly (a second mating part). Consequently, the combination of invention II does require the particulars of the sub combination of invention I, and the inventions are not distinct as provided in MPEP § 806.05 (c). By this Preliminary Amendment, applicant has included language in claim 10 to clarify this point.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the requirement for restriction be withdrawn. In the event that the Examiner declines this request and maintains the restriction requirement, applicant provisionally elects invention I (claims 1 – 9 and 19 – 23) for immediate prosecution.

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is in condition for allowance and allowance of the application at issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen L. Noe", written over a horizontal line.

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